

*Approved by EQAC, February 11, 2015*

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX  
SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING OF THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**DATE: JANUARY 21, 2015**

The public hearing commenced at 7:30 P.M. in conference rooms 2 and 3 of the Government Center.

The following EQAC members were present:

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)             | George Lamb (At-Large)    |
| Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chairman, Mount Vernon) | Ken Lanfear (Hunter Mill) |
| Matthew Baker (Student Member)               | Alex Robbins (Providence) |
| Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)                   | David Smith (Braddock)    |
| Johna Gagnon (Lee)                           | Glen White (Mason)        |

The following members of county staff were present:

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Kambiz Agazi | Noel Kaplan |
|--------------|-------------|

Stella Koch welcomed all those in attendance, provided introductory remarks, and asked EQAC and staff members to introduce themselves.

Noel Kaplan reviewed logistical considerations and asked everyone present to sign in. He noted that there were three video presentations in addition to the oral testimony to be offered by speakers.

The video testimony was provided by the following:

- Anna, Jonah, Gabriel and Sam Kim
- The Earth Sangha, c/o Katherine Isaacson
- Susan Bonney

There were 11 speakers, nine of whom provided copies of their presentations and/or notes at or subsequent to the hearing. The speakers were:

- Eric Goplerud—Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
- Edward Monroe
- Mary Cortina, Fairfax County Park Authority Board
- Catherine Ledec
- Renee Grebe
- Dorothy Canter, Friends of Fort Hunt Park, Inc.
- Bill Lynch
- Paul Siegel, Friends of Little Hunting Creek
- Eleanor Quigley

- Kris Unger, Friends of Accotink Creek
- Alexis Dickerson

In addition, the following people did not testify at the public hearing but provided written testimony:

- Glenda Booth
- Philip Burnam
- Larry Cartwright
- Joseph Chudzik (two pieces of testimony)
- Alta Harrington-Tozzi
- Chip Lubsen
- Steven Osofsky

Unless otherwise noted, participants presented testimony as individuals rather than on behalf of groups.

During discussions with EQAC members that followed many of the presentations, speakers were invited to add their names to staff's EQAC notifications e-mail list. All meeting participants were ultimately offered this invitation.

**VIDEO 1: Anna, Jonah, Gabriel and Sam Kim**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Et9Aeydd3-s>

The video presentation from the Kim family focused on the dredging of Woodglen Lake, the benefits of dredging to the water quality of the lake, impacts to wildlife that could occur during the dredging project and efforts that residents can pursue to reduce pollutant runoff into the lake.

Jonah Kim (age 11) noted that fish were being removed from the lake in advance of the dredging, and he wondered why other wildlife was not also being removed and relocated temporarily, including salamanders, frogs and beaver.

Gabriel Kim (age 12) provided an overview of the watershed setting of Woodglen Lake and highlighted the role of the lake in reducing pollutant runoff to downstream resources, including the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. He noted the sources of nonpoint source pollution entering the lake.

Sam Kim (age 9) spoke to the health of the stream below the lake. He noted that the water quality of the stream had been rated as "very poor" as a result of the runoff entering the lake and the stream.

The Kim family then described efforts that residents can take to help reduce water pollution, including: the use of environmentally-friendly soap; avoidance of the use of chemicals on lawns and gardens; cleaning up pet wastes; using rain barrels to

collect and re-use rainwater; planting rain gardens; using sand instead of salt to treat ice on driveways; picking up trash; and washing cars on lawns instead of on impervious surfaces.

Chairman Koch commended the Kim family for the initiative and creativity exhibited in its presentation. Mr. Kaplan was asked to provide the link to the video to the county's stormwater staff.

**1. Eric Goplerud (Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions)**

Dr. Goplerud gave a PowerPoint presentation; his slides are included as an attachment to this summary.

His comments focused on his recommendation for the establishment of an energy dashboard for Fairfax County that would provide a publicly accessible, highly visible presentation of energy usage in county facilities. In support of this recommendation, he highlighted the following:

- The large amount of waste in America (cited at 40%) of energy produced.
- The identification within President Obama's January 20, 2015 State of the Union Address of 2014 as the warmest year on record globally, with 14 of the 15 warmest years on record falling within the first 15 years of this century.
- The distribution of greenhouse gas emissions in Fairfax County by sector.
- The distribution of county government greenhouse gas emissions, with emissions associated with electricity use constituting, by far, the largest emissions source.
- The need to measure energy usage in order to manage it.
- Benefits of "energy dashboards" in presenting county energy use data to taxpayers, thereby creating pressure to reduce energy use, drive innovation and empower smart building use.
- Examples of and results from noteworthy energy dashboards, including George Mason University and Oberlin, Ohio.
- Opportunities to apply a similar energy dashboard approach for 91 county buildings and 95 Fairfax County Public School buildings that already have real-time building energy management systems, with an anticipated savings of up to 20 percent in energy and associated greenhouse gas emissions.
- Recognition that the number of buildings with building energy management systems will increase over time as older systems are replaced.
- Anticipated costs and savings from the use of building energy management systems.

Dr. Goplerud concluded his presentation by stressing the benefits of energy dashboards in reducing energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions, protecting the environment, helping to create a culture of sustainability and allowing

savings in energy budgets. He stressed his recommendation for the county to become a leader in Virginia on climate change response and an example for businesses, schools and other counties. He cited and commended a similar recommendation that was made in EQAC's most recent Annual Report on the Environment.

Dr. Zaragoza noted that the energy dashboard recommendation came up during his presentation to the Board of Supervisors of the Annual Report on the Environment and noted that staff would be providing a response on this issue. He thanked FACS for pursuing this recommendation and for identifying the larger context of community-wide emissions.

Chairman Koch asked if FACS had met with members of the Board of Supervisors on this issue. Dr. Goplerud noted that this had happened, along with outreach to School Board members, Fairfax County Public Schools staff and Kambiz Agazi.

Dr. White asked if members of FACS had been pursuing similar efforts for their religious institutions and facilities. He also asked if anything similar in the commercial and residential sectors could be done. Dr. Goplerud replied that extraordinary actions have been taken both by individuals and facility operators in the county; he noted the efforts of members of five churches who are working together to purchase solar power. He added that a number of FACS members are exploring the dashboard concept and are at about the same place the county is on the issue.

Ms. Burchfiel asked if a website would be helpful in educating residents. Specifically, she recommended a site that would include videos showing the benefits of energy audits, insulation and related opportunities. Dr. Goplerud referred to his PowerPoint presentation for examples—he highlighted the town of Oberlin, Ohio and Oberlin College as the best examples of what could be done.

Chairman Koch requested that EQAC invite Dr. Goplerud back to a future EQAC meeting in order to have more discussion with the council on this issue.

## **2. Edward Monroe**

Mr. Monroe read from prepared testimony, which is provided as an attachment to this summary. His comments focused on stormwater management issues relating to infill development. He highlighted the following:

- Increases in peak stormwater runoff volumes from infill development, potentially leading to adverse downstream impacts.
- The need to retain stormwater onsite through the use of low impact development (LID) practices.
- The need to promote LIDs through awareness (application of LIDs in public facility design, along with related informational signage), knowledge (training

and certification of installers, development of a publicly-available list of certified installers and neighborhood association information and/or demonstration projects) and incentives (e.g., rebates to homeowners along the lines of what is offered by the City of Seattle, Washington).

He recommended the development of a pilot program to support these ideas and identified the proposed Lewinsville Center redevelopment project as a potential site for a project to enhance public awareness of LID practices. He noted that a stormwater augmentation plan had been prepared for this proposal and that, while the LID component of the plan does not have much capacity, it can, as a model, show people what can be done.

Chairman Koch noted the extent of the stormwater utility fee that has been established by the City of Seattle to support its program; she indicated that Seattle's program is much older than Fairfax County's and added that Seattle had been dealing with a combined sewer overflow issue, which is an issue that is not of concern in Fairfax County. Mr. Monroe and Ms. Koch discussed per-person stormwater funding in Seattle vs. Fairfax County (with the figure being considerably higher in Seattle) and Ms. Koch highlighted stream restoration and other funding needs in Fairfax County. Ms. Koch noted that the county has had lots of discussions regarding the issues Mr. Monroe raised. She encouraged Mr. Monroe to attend an EQAC meeting where stormwater would be discussed.

Mr. Smith asked if Mr. Monroe felt that the county should mandate the use of LID practices. Mr. Monroe replied that he felt that this should be voluntary.

Chairman Koch noted Comprehensive Plan guidance for the Tysons Corner Urban Center; this guidance recommends the on-site retention of the first inch of rainfall.

Dr. Agazi noted a new program that would be funded through the county's Environmental Improvement Program through which neighborhood grants for stormwater projects would be available through the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. He indicated that this program would directly support the educational concept highlighted in Mr. Monroe's presentation. Staff was asked to provide Mr. Monroe with a Web reference for this effort.

Mr. Smith noted legal requirements for developers to treat stormwater runoff. He added that there could be a broader suite of issues such as stream restoration needs.

Mr. Baker noted that much could be gained through education, citing his own experiences as a student.

**3. Mary Cortina (Fairfax County Park Authority Board)**

Ms. Cortina read from prepared testimony, which is provided as an attachment to this summary. She began her comments by commending the long-standing relationship between EQAC and the Park Authority Board; she expressed appreciation for the importance and effectiveness of EQAC's support. She then focused on the following issues:

- The Park Authority's newly-adopted Urban Park standards.
- The new Needs Assessment that is under way and the Park Authority's request for EQAC's review and input.
- The recently-adopted revision to the Natural Resource Management Plan.
- A pilot Forest Management Program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park.
- The numerous environmental benefits of natural capital in Fairfax County parks (e.g., air and water quality; regional temperature regulation; wildlife benefits).
- The need to manage lands that have been acquired by the Park Authority and the lack of sufficient funds in the county's general fund to do this.
- The need for new, more holistic approaches to addressing this funding issue, and optimism that this can be done in light of the dedication of the Board of Supervisors, through numerous actions, to address county stormwater management and related stream protection needs.

Chairman Koch noted EQAC's annual meetings with the Park Authority Board and suggested that this would be appropriate for an agenda item for the next joint meeting. Ms. Cortina replied that she did not think that this discussion should wait until the next meeting. Ms. Koch indicated that she would discuss this with the Chairman of the Park Authority Board.

Mr. Lanfear noted that resource limitations have hindered implementation of many of EQAC's recommendations, and he supported efforts to increase resources needed to address these issues. Ms. Cortina noted that EQAC had made similar recommendations for several years in regard to natural resource protection and expressed her view that the current approach is not working. She stressed the need to explore new ways to increase resources for natural resource protection and management. In response to a question from Ms. Koch, she noted that bond revenue cannot be used for non-capital projects.

**4. Catherine Ledec**

Ms. Ledec read from prepared testimony, which is provided as an attachment to this summary. She stated that good, relevant science needs to inform recommendations from EQAC when advising the Board of Supervisors on programs impacting the environment. She stressed that this will ensure that scarce county funds will be spent

where scientific evidence from Fairfax County will result in more good than harm to the environment. She stated that all of us need to ask tough questions of county staff.

She then described the insecticide spraying program to control fall cankerworm populations as an example of a program where she felt that good science is not being applied. She cited the following specific concerns:

- She noted that, at meetings where county staff was asked to show the scientific evidence that fall cankerworm defoliation leads to tree mortality in Fairfax County, no county-specific evidence was offered to demonstrate that this program is achieving its stated purpose. Ms. Ledec expressed her view that monitoring efforts currently in place do not inform the program's stated purpose of minimizing tree mortality.
- She expressed concern that the impact of this insecticide spraying program on other parts of the ecosystem is not monitored nor measured. She noted that we know that the insecticide (Btk) is deadly to more than just the fall cankerworm including as many as 60 species of butterflies and moths, birds, bats, reptiles, amphibians and others. She argued that county staff is simply assuming, without scientific justification, that the impact of this program on non-target species is unimportant.

She ended her testimony asking EQAC to ask tough questions to ensure that programs impacting our environment are justified by good scientific evidence.

## **5. Renee Grebe**

Ms. Grebe read from prepared testimony, which is provided as an attachment to this summary. She introduced herself as a certified Virginia Master Naturalist, a designated Volunteer Site Leader for the county's Invasive Management Area program and a 12-year resident of the Lee District. She requested that EQAC oppose the spraying of the insecticide Bt in Fairfax County (for fall cankerworm control) and suggested further investment in deer control and invasive management efforts as better alternatives for protecting the county's tree canopy. She cited the following in support of this recommendation:

- The need for management decisions to be based on data-driven evidence, and her view that there has been insufficient data to support the fall cankerworm spraying program.
- Her view that there is a need for information to be provided by the county about the broader impacts, and unintended consequences, of the spraying program and the need to couple this information with consideration of the direct benefits of cankerworms. She indicated that this information should be available to those seeing the cankerworm as a "nuisance" so that they may be better able to evaluate the tradeoffs of eradication.

- Her view that the information she has seen from the county does not accurately address these impacts and consequences (i.e., adverse impacts to beneficial insects; disruption of the food chain for many animals that rely on caterpillars as a food source).
- Her view that there is insufficient evidence to support the spraying of Bt as the most effective use of county funds for tree canopy protection.
- Questions as to whether trees that would be defoliated by the fall cankerworm would rebound after such defoliation.
- The desirability of a “Test and Learn” approach through which hard data would be acquired to allow for better assessments of tolerance of defoliation.

Ms. Grebe concluded her remarks by stressing the need for a more holistic, data-driven examination of options available for preserving the county’s ecological resources and tree canopy.

Ms. Gagnon noted that one of the references made in Ms. Grebe’s presentation was an e-mail from February 2013 from Supervisor McKay. She asked if Ms. Grebe has contacted Supervisor McKay’s office more recently. Ms. Grebe replied that she had attended a Lee District presentation in spring 2014.

Ms. Burchfiel highlighted Ms. Grebe’s recognition of the broader suite of stressors affecting the county’s tree canopy and supported efforts to reduce these broader stressors.

## **6. Dorothy Canter (Friends of Fort Hunt Park, Inc.)**

Ms. Canter provided information to EQAC about Fort Hunt Park, which is administered by the National Park Service. She noted the rich and unique history of the 197-acre park and highlighted efforts to enhance the historic, natural and recreational resources that are provided by the park. She noted that there had been cleanup events at the park, and she highlighted a project to prepare a compilation of oral history data that could eventually be made available to the public.

Ms. Canter highlighted the interconnection of state, local and national parks along the Potomac River and cited similarities to Frederick Law Olmstead’s “emerald necklace” in the Boston area. She noted the benefits associated with interconnectivity of parks from both historic and natural perspectives and stressed the need for coordination among local, state and federal governments.

Ms. Canter stated that the National Park Service would be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in August 2016 and noted that there would be associated events along the George Washington Parkway, including Fort Hunt Park. She noted that events may include discussions regarding conservancy of park land.



In response to a question from Chairman Koch, Ms. Canter stated that she had coordinated with the National Parks Conservation Association.

With respect to interconnectivity of parks, Chairman Koch referenced the Northern Virginia Regional Commission's Conservation Corridors project and asked if there were any further efforts associated with that project.

## **7. Bill Lynch**

Mr. Lynch gave a PowerPoint presentation; his slides are included as an attachment to this summary.

Mr. Lynch indicated that he was seeking EQAC's help in spurring new thinking in the county in regard to the management of construction/demolition debris waste. His presentation highlighted the forthcoming closure of the Lorton CDD Landfill along with a declining volume of waste from Northern Virginia that is being sent to this landfill—he noted that approximately 60 percent of the CDD materials that are dumped at this facility come from Maryland and Washington, D.C. He attributed the Northern Virginia decline to an increasing emphasis on recycling of construction and demolition debris, at least in part to recycling efforts supporting LEED® certification. He noted that, for the I-95 Business Parks that he operates, he has built over 250,000 square feet of flex tech space without sending any debris to a CDD landfill, and he indicated that his firm's tenant improvement efforts also result in CDD waste recycling.

Mr. Lynch continued by describing the CDD recycling process, noting the mechanized nature of processing.

He stressed the need for more CDD recycling capacity in Fairfax County; in particular, he recommended that one or two new mechanized recycling facilities be sited in the county. He identified the site of the closed I-66 landfill (and operational waste transfer facility) as a possible location for such a facility. He also recommended that the county require the construction/development industry to prepare a CDD recycling plan for every site plan, with a goal of at least 50 percent recycling rates. He indicated that it would not be difficult for the industry to comply in light of the existing reporting by waste handlers of recycling rates to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. He suggested that there could be square footage or residential unit thresholds triggering this requirement.

There was discussion as to whether the county could require CDD recycling, and it was noted that Arlington County implements its program through its site plan (special exception) process.

Ms. Gagnon asked if Mr. Lynch had communicated his recommendations to the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. He responded that he had done so and noted that DPWES was in the process of revising its Solid Waste Management Plan. He recommended that, if enabling authority is needed, it should be sought.

Chairman Koch recommended that EQAC have a conversation about Mr. Lynch's recommendations. Dr. Zaragoza recommended that Mr. Lynch be invited to any such conversation.

There was additional discussion among council members about CDD recycling, as well as residential single stream recycling. There was recognition that, for residential recycling, only one company accepts single stream recycled materials and that this company can therefore set the price for the process. Mr. Lynch suggested that it may make sense to move back to a residential recycling process involving separate streams.

#### **8. Paul Siegel (Friends of Little Hunting Creek)**

Mr. Siegel read from prepared testimony, which is provided as an attachment to this summary. His comments focused on the county's fall cankerworm spraying program from a statistical standpoint.

Mr. Siegel noted that the county's program follows guidance within the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Virginia Cooperative Gypsy Moth Suppression Program Guidelines for Participation. He questioned the applicability of the gypsy moth guidelines to the fall cankerworm program, noting differences in sampling methods and lack of consideration of natural population controls such as egg parasitism (which is called for in both the VDACS gypsy moth protocol and the Forest Service protocol for estimating fall cankerworm prevalence). He also criticized the approach that is taken to consider the numbers of caterpillars on each individual tree rather than averages determined within the identified spray blocks, questioning why a broad area would be subject to spraying when only a small number of individual trees within that area would have exceeded the 90 female caterpillar per tree threshold, with the average concentration within the spray block being less than that threshold.

Mr. Siegel concluded his remarks by recognizing a cost of spraying healthy trees, both in regard to the county's budget and to effects on non-target bugs and birds.

Dr. Zaragoza noted tree mortality issues that had become evident in the Richmond area as well as other areas. He added that the percentage of the county area that has been covered by the spray program is low. Mr. Siegel responded by reiterating his

concern that spray blocks with many trees in them may only have a small number of individual trees exceeding the threshold concentration of female caterpillars.

Mr. Lanfear noted that there is a trade-off regarding sampling expense vs. the benefits of the additional knowledge that would be gained from additional sampling. He expressed his view that more evidence was needed that the protocol being followed is not right.

**9. Eleanor Quigley**

Ms. Quigley read from prepared testimony, which is provided as an attachment to this summary. She introduced herself as the Mount Vernon District's representative on the Fairfax County Tree Commission and noted that she has served on several committees of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations. Her comments focused on threats to large canopy trees in Fairfax County, as presented from the standpoint of her 2/3-acre lot in the Mount Vernon District. She noted that the recent derecho resulted in the loss of three large canopy trees in her yard and that revegetation efforts have been threatened by deer. She also cited stormwater runoff and associated stream erosion as a threat to mature trees growing along stream banks, and she identified invasive plants as a threat to revegetation efforts.

Ms. Quigley commended EQAC for its support for the preservation and restoration of the county's urban forest and encouraged the council to continue and expand those efforts and to encourage the Board of Supervisors to do the same.

She added that she appreciated EQAC's discussion at its November 2014 meeting of the fall cankerworm control issue, noting that the Tree Commission had unanimously agreed to a resolution to retain the county's limited, targeted fall cankerworm spray program.

**10. Kris Unger (Friends of Accotink Creek)**

Mr. Unger read from prepared testimony, which is provided as an attachment to this summary. His comments focused on watershed awareness. He expressed concern about the large number of people who he feels are disconnected from the watersheds they live in and a resulting disregard for watersheds. He identified several examples of related implications, including paved trails within stream valleys, an emphasis on revenue-generating active recreation in parks, extensive reliance on turf lawns, construction projects that damage streams and the consideration of lush and thriving forest ecosystems as "undeveloped land."

Mr. Unger noted the efforts of Friends of Accotink Creek aimed at reversing these trends. He highlighted the group's work with local schools, at stream cleanup events

and in leading educational walks and presentations. He cited the promotion of watershed awareness as one of the group's core missions and encouraged Fairfax County to "support and promote watershed-oriented initiatives that engage, inform and inspire people, schools, business and communities."

#### **11. Alexis Dickerson**

Ms. Dickerson noted that she is the recipient of a grant from the Alexandria Urban Food Forest Project to create an urban edible food forest in the Alexandria area of Fairfax County. She is required to pursue this effort in a low income area and is seeking EQAC's assistance in identifying where such an area may be—she is hoping to focus her efforts somewhere in the Lincolnia area.

Chairman Koch suggested that the Fairfax County Park Authority may be able to help. Ms. Burchfiel suggested the Fairfax County Restoration Project. Mr. Kaplan indicated that Ms. Dickerson's request is for demographic information, and he offered to help her connect with the appropriate county staff.

#### **VIDEO 2: The Earth Sangha, c/o Katherine Isaacson**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7whA0QSlxGQ>

This video presentation was titled "Earth Sangha: A unique conservation resource for Fairfax County." The presentation identified the Earth Sangha as a small, Fairfax County-based nonprofit organization that is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of native plants. The presentation identified how the Earth Sangha coordinates with Fairfax County and presented recommendations for expanded county efforts to protect the region's ecological resources.

The following collaborative efforts were identified:

- The wild plant nursery at Franconia Park, which is a collaborative effort between the Earth Sangha and the Fairfax County Park Authority to propagate over 300 local ecotype species for ecological restoration. Last year, over 12,000 native plants were distributed around the region; this number is expected to grow in 2015.
- The Invasive Management Area program aimed at targeting invasive plant species.

The presentation urged the county to expand on these efforts by continuing to invest in natural resource management, especially as it pertains to riparian areas and meadows, which were identified as two of the most valuable and diverse habitat types in Fairfax County and habitat types that are under increasing threat from human disturbance.

**VIDEO 3: Susan Bonney**  
<http://youtu.be/k-u70fuwH3s>

Ms. Bonney identified herself as an active volunteer with, and member of the Executive Committee of, the Great Falls Group of the Sierra Club. She recommended that the county include, in future editions of its Comprehensive Plan, the themes of sustainability and climate stabilization. She noted that the Plan addresses all kinds of issues, but not climate change, which she described as the “unrelenting issue pressing down on civilization.”

Ms. Bonney noted that the county’s Sustainability Initiatives report documents positive actions that have been taken by the county, but she noted that this document is not a plan and does not show that the county has an organized strategic action plan. She noted that climate stabilization is not one of the six themes in the county’s environmental agenda—it is only referenced with tree canopy preservation and the identification of the 2007 Cool Counties program.

Ms. Bonney stated that the Fairfax County Facilities Management Department’s Energy Manager has already saved the county millions of dollars annually. She stated that adding goals and planned actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions has proven to be cost-effective by the changes he has made.

Ms. Bonney urged the county to continue to perform greenhouse gas emissions inventories, as there has been only one done to date.

Ms. Bonney continued by encouraging the establishment of a county sustainability office, which could centralize the processes that are spread throughout the county through an *ad hoc* committee of county employees. She indicated that a sustainability office would be responsible for the greenhouse gas inventory.

Ms. Bonney asked that the county begin to include sustainability in the next edition of the Comprehensive Plan; she noted that sustainability is not included in the Plan now because the Plan is considered to be a “land use” guide.

Ms. Bonney called for an internal advocate within the county government for sustainability and climate stabilization. She noted that the county participates in the work of the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, but she indicated that she did not know, and is not aware of any others in the Sierra Club who know, if any one county employee is responsible for tracking Fairfax County’s progress in achieving the milestones in COG’s plan. She indicated that tracking progress in achieving these milestones is another important goal that a new county sustainability office could achieve.

Ms. Bonney thanked EQAC for considering her testimony.

### **Closing**

Chairman Koch thanked everyone for coming out and participating and for the clear, concrete and thoughtful testimony that was presented.

### **Written Testimony**

As noted earlier, the following people did not testify at the public hearing but provided written comments:

- Glenda Booth
- Philip Burnam
- Larry Cartwright
- Joseph Chudzik (two pieces of testimony)
- Alta Harrington-Tozzi
- Chip Lubsen
- Steven Osofsky

All written comments are included as attachments to this summary.

### **Glenda Booth**

Ms. Booth began her comments with an overview of the environmental context in the rapidly urbanizing county, highlighting: the limited amount of remaining vacant land and an associated loss of biodiversity; a high percentage of county streams in fair to poor condition; continued nonattainment for atmospheric ozone; pollution of the Potomac River; impairments in many county streams; degradation of habitat for native birds; and implications of climate change.

She offered recommendations in the following areas of environmental concern—the details are not provided here but are available in her written testimony:

- Climate Change (sea level rise analysis; resiliency planning; letting wetlands migrate inland; consideration in land use and public facility decision-making; incentives to discourage driving; continuation of bus service; discouraging large, impervious parking areas; support for smart growth)—Ms. Booth recommended that EQAC analyze current county ordinances and policies in light of these issues.
- Smart Growth/Revitalization (increased attention to the Richmond Highway corridor; opposition to any further move of federal facilities or activities to Fort Belvoir).

- Ecological Resources and Parks (support for a countywide natural resource inventory; an increased emphasis on natural resources in the Park Authority budget; park planning and acquisition to increase ecological connectivity; avoidance of placement of telecommunications towers in natural areas; biological surveys prior to development in parks; support for national and state protected areas and enhancement of connectivity to them)
- Natural Landscaping (implementation of a 2005 natural landscaping plan)
- Tree Cover (strengthening of the Tree Conservation Ordinance; planting more trees; tightening of tree preservation, including enforcement; halting of the fall cankerworm spraying program; science-based pest management efforts).

She identified 11 organizations supporting her position on the fall cankerworm spraying program.

### **Philip Burnam**

Mr. Burnam's comments focused on highway noise impacts on the Kings Park subdivision from traffic on Braddock Road. He expressed his view that noise conditions had worsened considerably since the opening of the 495 Express Lanes. He recommended that noise barriers be designed and constructed along Braddock Road to reduce this impact.

### **Larry Cartwright**

Mr. Cartwright raised concern about the county's spraying to control fall cankerworm populations. He stated that the county should place priority on invasive plant removal instead. As an example, he noted the need to remove English Ivy along the edge of woodlands near Huntley Meadows Park. He also expressed support for continuation of deer management efforts.

Mr. Cartwright also expressed concern about "community cat colonies," citing impacts of a feral non-native species to the county's environment.

### **Joseph Chudzik**

Mr. Chudzik submitted two pieces of testimony as follows:

- His first issue concerned a derelict barge located in Belmont Bay. He included in his testimony a copy of a January 16, 2015 letter from Jennifer

Cole, the Executive Director of Clean Fairfax, to Chairman Sharon Bulova. The letter requests county leadership in determining responsibility for removal of the barge and in furthering efforts that would lead to a plan for the barge's removal.

- His second issue concerned trash that has been dumped near Giles Run in the Lorton area and the need to establish responsibility leading to the removal of this trash.

### **Alta Harrington-Tozzi**

Ms. Harrington-Tozzi expressed her concern about a recent deer hunt at Frying Pan Farm Park, citing concerns about safety, humaneness and the need for better justification for the effort. She suggested that a management approach similar to that initiated by Fairfax City (focusing on birth control rather than lethal techniques) should be pursued at the park.

### **Chip Lubsen**

Mr. Lubsen also expressed opposition to the county's sharpshooter-based deer management efforts at Frying Pan Farm Park. He cited the following reasons why he feels that the deer killing is misguided:

- Flawed and incomplete scientific justification, including the need for better consideration of a recent reduction in deer population in the park (perhaps due to an earlier population spike relating to construction along Centreville Road), consideration of deer/auto collision data for the area adjacent to the park and data regarding Lyme disease cases in the county at large and the area adjacent to the park specifically.
- Insufficient justification based on the mission of the park—Mr. Lubsen does not see the need for deer hunting in the park in order for the park to meet its mission.
- The need for an “audit and refresh” of the county's deer management plan, which is 15 years old. Mr. Lubsen feels that the upcoming audit of the program should be completed before any decision to add parks to the hunt list.
- Ethical concerns about the nighttime bait and hunt approach, in light of Virginia law outlawing this practice.
- The lack of full vetting of the hunt within the affected community, as called for in the county's deer management plan.

Mr. Lubsen noted Fairfax City's efforts to manage deer through a non-lethal approach, and he requested that EQAC use its influence to challenge and alter the current county approach to deer management.



Mr. Lubsen provided a copy of a petition signed by 48 residents who live near the park opposing the culling of deer at the park.

**Steven Osofsky**

Mr. Osofsky identified as a concern what he sees as a growing problem of roadside litter. He noted his frustration with his experiences along Waples Mill Road, where the roadside area quickly fills with litter just days after cleanup efforts have been implemented. He suggested two ideas to address this concern:

- A public service announcement campaign.
- The addition by VDOT to its maintenance contracts (e.g., tree trimming, paving) roadside litter collection.